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ABSTRACT

This book presents a study of three major American, university-based feminist journals and through them the themes of politics and scholarship in the feminist production of knowledge. The study used "Signs: a Journal of Women in Culture and Society" (University of Chicago Press), "Feminist Studies" (based at the University of Maryland), and "Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies" (housed at the University of Colorado at Boulder). Through examination of these journals and their publication history the study looks at how it has been possible for feminists to challenge, critique, and transform higher education institutions even as they use those institutions as a resource. The investigation had two concerns: the internal dynamics of the journal and the external dynamics of the relationship of the journals to the wider women's movement and the university, particularly as these dynamics intersected or clashed. The study describes the relationship of scholarly rigor and political relevance and illuminates the fundamental tensions that divide feminist and traditional scholarship. In addition the research analyzed the journals' use of academic and community forms, conventions, and structures. Finally, the study conducted a cultural analysis of particular controversies in which specific meanings and contours of feminist discourse were contested or promoted through the journals. An appendix lists 32 feminist journals published in the United States. (Contains 65 references.) (JB)

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